

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending June 30, 2002

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Soft Fruit Damage was Caused by Last Weeks' Rain
Strawberry Harvest was in Full Swing**

FIELD CROPS

Rain showers received last week were welcomed to help relieve dry crop conditions. Whitman County reported rust was found in the spring wheat crop. Turfgrass growers were busy seeding new fields. Green pea, seed pea, bunch onion, and grass seed harvests were underway. Sweet corn planting continued. Potato growers continued to battle late blight in several fields across the state.

LIVESTOCK

Most hay producers were finishing up their first harvest, with some producers just starting on their second cutting. Dairy farmers were busy irrigating and harvesting silage. Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 8% poor, 78% fair and 13% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Strawberry harvest was in full swing. Dahlia growers were checking fields for flea beetle infestation. Lavender growers were busy tending plants in preparation for the Lavender Festival. Organic farmers continued to harvest early season vegetables. Skagit County was irrigating blueberries and beet transplants, while Thurston County was harvesting Weymouth type blueberries. Cherry harvest continued in Benton County. Some soft fruit damage caused by recent rains was reported in Benton, Douglas and Chelan Counties.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.0	6.4

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	33	63	0
Subsoil	1	32	67	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	3	20	77	0
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	82	55	83	84
Winter Wheat Headed	100	94	100	100
Barley Headed	70	50	86	85
Corn Emerged	100	95	100	100
Dry Edible Beans	100	96	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 1 st Cutting	99	96	97	92
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	15	10	43	35

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	10	41	39	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	90	10
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	15	56	28	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	90	10
Barley Dryland	0	10	57	33	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	90	10
Potatoes	0	0	5	85	10
Corn	0	0	12	88	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	10	87	3
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

** Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.*

Washington State University
Cooperative Extension Service
Michael Tate
Dean/Director, Coop Extension

USDA
Farm Service Agency
James F. Fitzgerald
State Director

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
Doug Hasslen - State Statistician
Kelly Kaden - Ag Statistician
Michelle Fox - Ag Statistician

COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Clallam/Jefferson: Hay harvest mid-week was a big priority for those with hay down. Fields that had already been harvested were very dry, with little signs of new growth. Lavender growers were busy tending to the plants as they near the peak of the season and the Lavender Festival.

Grays Harbor: Copious amounts of rain were welcomed by most ag producers following a week of very warm temperatures. The rain quickly alleviated dry soil conditions resulting in increased plant growth. Sweet corn plant development continued to be less than what it should be for this time of year. Producers were already predicting a late harvest. The rain caught some livestock producers off guard who had cut hay in anticipation of dry weather. Christmas tree growers continued spraying newly planted trees for root aphids. Dairy producers continued irrigating forage fields to increase yields. Commercial hot house tomato producers reported they would begin harvest of the “Blitz” variety next week. Commercial dahlia growers reported initial growers were monitoring fields for flea beetle infestations.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Significant rains over the weekend replenished soil moisture. Crops responded to the warm, humid conditions with remarkable growth.

Pierce/South King: Heavy rains over the weekend have lead to above average rainfall for this time of the year. There was no report of any crop damage due to the weather.

Skagit: Hot, dry weather the past couple of weeks caused some concern, but no crop injury was reported. Farmers with irrigation capabilities were irrigating crops like blueberries and

beet transplants. Rain mid-week was welcomed. Strawberry harvest was in full swing, but late due to earlier cool temperatures. Quality was excellent. Potato acreage was up substantially this year in response to lost pea contracts when National Foods closed. With so little precipitation, disease pressure so far was very low in all crops.

Snohomish/North King: The forecast of rain late in the week made completing the hay harvest a priority for many farmers. Crop farmers were busy spraying and cultivating crops. Dairy farmers could barely keep up with grass growth for the silage harvest. Heavy rain and wind Friday through Saturday morning halted most field activities. There were no reports of the heavy rain and cooler temperatures negatively affecting the strawberry harvest.

Thurston: Very warm temperatures reaching the low 90's were quickly cooled off to the mid 60's by mid-week, as a low front brought rain showers into the area. Most ag producers were extremely pleased with the increased soil moisture. The exceptions were the strawberry growers, who were in the second week of harvest, and the livestock producers who had cut hay in anticipation of continuing dry weather. Christmas tree growers were spot spraying Canada thistle infestations. Organic vegetable growers continued harvesting early season vegetables and battling weeds. Commercial blueberry growers reported ripe fruit on the Weymouth variety. Turfgrass growers began seeding new fields and were especially pleased to have temperatures and moisture conditions which provided nearly ideal conditions for seed germination.

CENTRAL

Benton: Cherry harvest continued in the county. There were some calls from producers of crop damage to cherries, plums and soft fruits. There was a light rain storm that hit Kennewick during the week. The grass harvest will continue. The wheat producers were anticipating a light harvest for the dryland acreage.

Chelan/Douglas: Light rain was received on Friday. Precipitation was not expected to have caused damage to the cherry crop. Cherry harvest continued. Precipitation was not enough to help the currently stressed wheat crop. Less than one-tenth of an inch was received at Waterville.

Grant: Green pea harvest was ongoing. The dryland needs rain. Sweet corn planting continued. Bunch onion seed harvest began. Grass seed harvest was underway. Late blight was found on potatoes in the Grant-Adams area. Seed pea harvest began.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 3 degrees below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with a high temperature of 99 degrees on June 26. There were .35 of an inch of precipitation on Friday. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Crop conditions remained unchanged after rain showers were received near the end of the week.

Asotin/Garfield: Extremely hot weather at mid-week was damaging to crops, but was followed by rain and cool temperatures late in the week were very beneficial to the crops.

Lincoln: Crop conditions remained unchanged following rain showers near the end of the week.

Spokane/Pend Oreille: Rain was received on Friday and Saturday. The amount varied in the two counties from .2" to .75". The rain was good and bad news. Much of the first cutting of hay was down and ready for baling. Some hay was rained on. The rain was good for the grain crops which were headed and filling. Some bluegrass seeded were swathed in Spokane County. More fields will be swathed this week. Yields were expected to be below average due to the drought last fall and the cool weather this past spring. Reports from Pend Oreille County indicated that the timothy hay was doing very good this year and should be average to above average this year.

Stevens: A few rain showers were received towards the end of the week. Haying continued in full swing. Pastures were holding up well in most of the county. Grain crops appeared to be in good condition.

Walla Walla: Pea and cherry harvests continued. Rhizoctinia was a problem in peas and beans, along with leafroll virus in green peas. Soil moisture condition in dryland cereals was a problem in some areas.

Whitman: Winter wheat and spring cereals were in mostly good to excellent condition in the eastern section of the county, while grain conditions were only fair in the drier western half of the county. Stem rust was widely diagnosed in spring wheat and fungicide sprays were broadly made across the impacted acreage. Baling of grass hay continued throughout the week. Hot weather and temperatures, well into the 90's, occurred mid-week, but by late week the temperatures moderated with scattered showers. Pea and lentil crops continued to bloom on the eastern edge of the county, while pea crops in the western growing areas had set pods with only fair yield prospects.

Whitman (2nd Report): Relief from hot, dry conditions came in the form of clouds, cooler temperatures, and rain. Weather conditions remained ideal for crop development and timely rains hit most areas of the county. Rust was showing up in spring wheat, but otherwise crop conditions were looking very good. The first cutting of hay neared completion in most parts of the county. Summer fallow work was being done.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

June 17, 2002

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	49	83	61	3	79	21	12	5	0.00	-0.42	0	31.41	-1.25	96	148
Everett	49	85	61	3	82	17	19	6	0.00	-0.49	0	29.39	-3.56	89	154
Hoquiam	46	82	59	2	64	15	10	4	0.00	-0.51	0	62.51	-1.77	97	167
Kelso	50	90	65	6	103	36	35	21	0.00	-0.52	0	39.72	-3.48	92	147
Olympia	41	93	61	4	83	25	20	13	0.00	-0.42	0	56.95	9.14	119	158
Seattle-Tacoma	49	94	64	4	96	22	30	15	0.00	-0.35	0	36.37	1.72	105	143
Shelton	48	93	62	3	88	15	23	5	0.01	-0.41	1	68.25	6.30	110	153
Tacoma	46	95	62	3	88	15	25	11	0.00	-0.42	0	28.64	-8.68	77	121
Vancouver	50	97	67	7	122	50	52	34	0.00	-0.42	0	35.65	-2.97	92	146
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	42	91	67	6	120	37	50	24	0.01	-0.13	1	6.83	-1.24	85	82
Omak	42	96	68	8	128	50	58	34	0.00	-0.34	0	8.57	-4.21	67	68
Stampede Pass	43	74	57	10	49	35	8	8	0.02	-0.68	1	72.92	-3.50	95	157
Wenatchee	51	95	72	7	157	44	87	41	0.04	-0.10	1	5.10	-2.29	69	59
Yakima AP	44	95	70	7	138	39	68	32	0.10	-0.04	2	6.55	-0.65	91	59
NORTHEAST															
Colville	47	95	68	8	130	53	60	37	0.02	-0.34	1	14.29	-4.35	77	79
Deer Park	44	89	64	4	99	22	35	12	0.04	-0.24	1	20.23	3.83	123	116
Spokane AP	45	88	66	5	111	31	47	23	0.59	0.30	1	13.01	-1.57	89	106
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	46	96	71	4	148	23	78	21	0.27	0.14	2	5.30	-1.19	82	60
Moses Lake	48	97	70	3	144	19	74	17	0.34	0.21	1	5.35	-1.14	82	61
Quincy	45	92	70	5	141	33	71	28	0.00	-0.14	0	5.85	-1.20	83	56
Ritzville	45	92	65	4	110	28	48	23	0.09	-0.05	2	9.25	-0.95	91	74
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	50	99	74	4	168	25	98	25	0.12	0.05	2	5.17	-0.70	88	47
Pasco	49	97	73	5	162	32	92	31	0.10	0.03	1	4.87	-1.94	72	54
Pullman	43	84	62	4	84	21	25	8	0.13	-0.22	2	16.47	-2.35	88	106
Walla Walla AP	50	94	71	5	150	31	80	28	0.15	-0.11	1	13.83	-3.90	78	98
Whitman Mission	45	96	68	3	126	22	63	23	0.43	0.22	2	12.00	-0.32	97	93
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	45	90	63	1	93	7	34	9	0.08	-0.41	2	18.25	-4.64	80	112
Lewiston ID	45	93	67	1	118	5	59	13	0.50	0.22	2	9.11	-1.35	87	95

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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